

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please revise paragraph beginning on page 16, line 11 of the specification as follows:

The close transaction process 512 is initiated by the command header handler 502 when it is finished sending messages. In general, only the command header handler 502 issues close transaction commands since it alone knows when no more messages are to be sent. The agent process 504 then initiates a close sequence by executing its own close transaction function. When the close command is processed a present state snapshot of the object after the state change is saved. The updated snapshot may overwrite the old snapshot so that only the most present state of the managed object is saved.